

Washington, D.C. — In an effort to combat rising gasoline and energy prices, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), today voted in favor of a bill he cosponsored that would prohibit foreign countries from collectively manipulating energy prices or supplies.

The bill, “No Oil Producing & Exporting Cartels” or NOPEC would empower the federal government to file antitrust lawsuits in federal district court against countries that collectively set prices for natural gas or petroleum. Specifically, countries could not work collectively to:

- limit the production or distribution of oil, natural gas or petroleum products;
- set the prices of oil, natural gas, or petroleum products; or
- take additional steps that would directly or substantially affect the “market, supply, price, or distribution” of oil, natural gas, or petroleum products.

“Gasoline and energy prices are rising steadily nationwide and constituents in the 7th District are incurring costs,” Congressman Sestak stated. “I’m working on efforts both short term and long term to bring prices down at the same time that we move to reduce dependency on oil and cut greenhouse gases.”

Congressman Sestak has been a strong supporter of U.S. energy self-sufficiency and environmental protection. He has cosponsored a number of bills including:

- HR 1252 would make it unlawful for any person to sell crude oil, gasoline, natural gas, or petroleum distillates at a price that is unconscionably excessive or indicates the seller is taking unfair advantage of unusual market conditions or the circumstances of an emergency to increase prices unreasonably.
- HR 550 would make investments in clean, alternative energy tax deductible.
- HR 1506 would raise fuel efficiency standards for all cars and light trucks.
- HR 620 reduces greenhouse gas emissions by creating a market-driven system of tradable emission allowances.
- HR 39 would protect the Arctic Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling.

In addition, Congressman Sestak cosponsored and voted for HR 6 which would repeal \$14 billion in subsidies to Big Oil and shift the resources to invest in clean, alternative energy. This bill passed and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. Congressman Sestak also supported the Democratic Budget, which placed a high priority on tackling global warming and making America more energy independent.

“For our economic, environmental, and security well-being, we must reduce our national dependency on petroleum products,” said Congressman Sestak. “Global warming and our addiction to oil are some of the greatest challenges of our time. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now.”

Congressman Sestak’s environmental and energy priorities include:

1. Support the signing of the Kyoto Treaty to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
2. Raise fuel economy standards on automobiles to at least 35-40 mpg
3. Set 10 percent target for renewable energy and an ultimate target of 20 percent
4. Invest in alternative technologies such as fuel cells and bio-diesel
5. Strengthen “tailpipe emissions” standards
6. Encourage energy conservation by restoring tax incentives for energy efficient vehicles and equipment
7. Create an advanced research agency to produce new technologies that will reduce oil consumption, strengthen energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
8. Offer tax incentives to businesses that utilize alternative fuels and other clean energy technologies rather than offering tax breaks to big oil companies
9. Invest in infrastructure for E85 – a fuel blend that’s 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline and scarcely offered at service stations due to the high costs to mom and pop station owners to install the equipment
10. Ensure that our government has the ability to enforce responsible clean air and water regulations
11. Prohibit drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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